Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Roa Kouri Notes Support on Human Rights Issue

FL241615 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Cuba has strongly rejected a campaign launched against it by the United States at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva. Raul Roa Kouri, Cuban foreign vice minister, shattered the lies of the U.S. representatives by showing evidence on this matter. Roa Kouri said the Cuban situation as well as testimonies of persons from other parts of the world, including North Americans, can attest to the total falsity of U.S. accusations against our country in the area of human rights.

To this effect, the vice minister mentioned, among others, U.S. Congressman (?Bill Robinson), four European Parliament deputies, the president of the Spanish Senate, members of the Council of Latin American Evangelist Churches, and Dr (Paulo Parra), chairman of the International Committee Against Torture.

Roa Kouri asked: Could our slanderers put in doubt such serious and respectable views which, of course, are above suspicion of being in collusion with our authorities? Finally he said truth breaks the binds that are trying to restrain it. He added that he is sure that truth will prevail at the commission.

Grants News Conference

FL241427 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1235 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Telephone report from "Hot off the Press" section of "Morning Magazine" by Orlando Contreras from the Palace of Nations in Geneva—live]

[Excerpts]) Raul Roa Kouri, foreign vice minister of Cuba, granted a news conference just a few minutes ago. The news conference was almost 1 and 1/2 hours long. Roa Kouri presented a confidential State Department document which instructs all U.S. embassies—and obviously, specifically here in Geneva—to attempt to improve the reputation, the damaged reputation, of the head of the U.S. delegation to this Human Rights Commission meeting, the former terrorist and so-called poet, Armando Valladares. It is a long document containing 15 points. Raul Roa Kouri gave a precise response to each one of the lies encompassed in the document. In the next report I will quote for you part of the document and refer more extensively to the news conference just given by the head of the Cuban delegation to this session of the Human Rights Commission being held in Geneva. [passage omitted]

The Cuban foreign vice minister spoke in English and I am going to let you listen to his own words.

[Begin Roa Kouri's recording in English with consecutive Spanish translation] Cuba has obtained a document prepared by the U.S. State Department and distributed to its representatives abroad, signed by Secretary of State Shultz. [Words indistinct] has encountered negative views elicited by the appointment of former Batista policeman Armando Valladares as chief U.S. representative to the United Nations. [end recording] These were Roa Kouri's initial words in a news conference here. I can continue reading part of the document since it was later distributed to reporters and will also circulate here at the Human Rights Commission.

It includes 15 lies with which Washington attempts to mislead the foreign ministries, even of allied and friendly countries, and its own foreign service officials. The State Department is grossly manipulating politically the subject of the, quote, human rights violations in Cuba, [no reference to a closing quote as heard] as seen in the rebuttals to the so-called Cuban accusations against the impostor by misrepresenting our allusions to Valladares, the facts themselves, and shamelessly acknowledging the CIA's distribution of the book "Against All Hope." The appointment of this impostor to head the U.S. delegation to the Human Rights Commission and the 15 lies of the State Department clearly show that this individual was not a prisoner of conscience or a disabled poet but a dissident fabricated by the U.S. Government and used by the media for its anti-Cuban campaign. Cuba then shows the authenticity of its assertions and documents which unmask Valladares; the testimonies of his detention, prosecution, and conviction as terrorist, his link to the Batista police, and his feigned illness in jail.

Friends, I should repeat that Roa Kouri not only presented this document and the precise rebuttals showing its falsehood but also showed Valladares' original credentials, the original birth certificate, the original documents showing that Orlando Piedra wrote him a letter of recommendation so he could join the police force. Reporters could see with their own eyes all the original documents. They were made available to all those present and will be circulated at the conference room if someone is interested in seeing them.

Obviously, there is great interest in discovering Valladares' true identity since here in Europe and surely also in the United States thanks to the strength the media has, which is controlled by capitalist companies, there are still sectors that believe Armando Valladares—former policeman, former Batista terrorist, and so-called poet—was a prisoner of conscience. The facts, as they were clearly shown here, prove that he was in fact a terrorist and that he is acting as a true impostor at the Human Rights Commission.

Further Report

FL241607 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Report by special correspondent in Geneva Pedro Martinez Pirez]

[Text] Tuesday's session of the UN Human Rights Commission here in Geneva, which lasted until 2100 local time, consisted of a full discussion of item No 10 on

the agenda concerning torture and other cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. It also served to confirm the U.S. Government's political unwillingness to favor the creation of a world where full human dignity can prevail.

Mr Armando Valladares Perez, former policeman No 2747 of the Fulgencio Batista tyranny, who was designated by President Reagan as chief of the U.S. delegation to this meeting, delivered a speech in the demagogic and rhetorical style characteristic of republican diplomacy. Although he did not refer to Cuba by name, his objective was to add a new pile of falsehoods and slander against the Cuban revolution.

Valladares spoke melodramatically, offering no new arguments but trying to cause an effect. However, he uttered in Geneva what might have been the first truth in a life full of lies when he admitted knowing nothing about diplomacy and foreign policy norms. He spoke in Spanish and not in the phonetic English that his superiors wrote for him for his first speech a few days ago. The plenum heard him with the disbelief and even disapproval which the United States' reactionary position arouses here on all topics.

Shortly afterward and before the Cuban delegate took the floor, the United States was one of the three countries that voted against a resolution condemning apartheid in South Africa and supporting the independence of Namibia, whose people are tyrannically ruled by the regime of Pieter Botha, Washington's ally.

Unlike the false poet and false invalid, Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Raul Roa Kouri did condemn the U.S. Government by name, and unmasked the evil arrogance with which Washington is trying to accuse Cuba of torture, illegal detentions, and trampling the rights of the detained. We are completely confident the truth will prevail at this meeting and will vanquish all the Valladareses used to try to cover up this truth, Roa Kouri emphasized. The Cuban delegation head is scheduled to hold a news conference tomorrow, Wednesday, in the spacious Room No 24 of the Palace of the United Nations to provide continuity to this singular battle between Cuba's truth and Washington's obstinacy. In this third stage of the battle, the United States has suffered two resounding defeats in consecutive years. These defeats, in fact, have been entered in the personal record of President Ronald Reagan.

Challenges U.S. To Deny Document

FL242220 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] The Cuban Government today unmasked before the world the false accusations of the U.S. State Department contained in a document circulated since last November and sent to its representatives abroad so they can deal with the negative reaction caused by Armando Valladares, chief of the U.S. mission to the UN Human Rights Commission.

Cuban Vice Foreign Ministers Raul Roa Kouri and (Miguel Brugueres) [title of (Brugueres) as heard] talked to the press in Geneva and Havana, respectively, and presented Cuba's reply to this political maneuver. The reply sums up in 15 points the fundamental aspects of Valladares' documentation and terrorist acts during the Batista tyranny, as well as other statements regarding the judicial treatment and health care received in Cuba by Washington's current representative. The State Department document, classified as confidential, instructs its subordinates on the manipulation of the real facts.

[Begin recording] [First speaker] This document also shows the rage and scorn of the empire against the dignity of those who resist its pressures and threats. When it termed as followers or henchmen of Cuba those 19 sovereign governments who refused to consider the draft resolution presented by the United States to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva in 1987, friendly hands, respectful of the truth and international legality that our revolution has never lacked, made this documentation available to us.

The document that we are turning over to you today clearly shows that the U.S. State Department is lying. It distorts both our charges against the faker and the very facts themselves. You should look carefully at the 15 replies which are given to the document internally, because the State Department document is internal. [sentence as heard] The replies are here, completely answering the lies and slander, the distortion and manipulation of partial statements to give them a different interpretation. Here you have, point by point, what we have decided to call the 15 lies which are actually one lie, because the whole document is a big lie. This was distributed by the State Department, I repeat, and it was received at the U.S. embassies and consulates with instructions on how they must act. We declare that the United States, which circulated this document, the U.S. State Department which circulated this document giving instructions to its embassies...[shifts thought] We challenge it to deny whether or not that is true.

[Second speaker] One last question to conclude the news conference, please.

[Reporter] We have only spoken about human rights, in this case about the accusations made against Cuba. Please, Mr Vice Minister, could you give your evaluation on these other aspects which have been discussed? What evaluation would you give to the examination of other human rights violations in the world?

[First speaker] Look, I think there is a problem of defining what human rights are. I think we have to work, publicize, find out what the facts are and go into the details. We have to look at what the Charter says and the progress that has been made over the years on the exact interpretation of human rights. The United States has used prisoners as a human rights issue. It is giving its own interpretation of human rights. I think all of you are aware of what is going on

in the occupied territories. You know the vote of the United States supporting Israel; it was alone in voting this way. This is the interpretation of human rights, as they are understood: When you care about infant mortality, that is caring about human rights. When you care about prolonging life, that is caring about human rights. When you care about providing jobs, health, education, and security for the whole population; when you care about guaranteeing that a young person will have alternatives, that is human rights. Human rights is not allowing someone to die of a disease that could have been avoided had it been treated by doctors and medicine. We believe that if any one country is an example of the daily work in the struggle for human rights—and of this we are proud—it is our country. [end recording]

Ethiopian Official, Spanish Labor Leader Arrive
FL241740 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Tadesse Gebre Kidan, member of the Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee and foreign trade minister, arrived last night in Havana. He is responding to an official invitation extended by the Cuban Government. Tadesse Gebre Kidan is heading a government delegation that will negotiate and sign a protocol for trade through compensation for this year.

Marcelino Camacho Abad, president of the Spanish Workers Committees, also arrived in the capital. He was invited by the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions. Some 2 million people are members of the Spanish Workers Committees, which is the most important trade union in Spain.

Spare Parts Agreements Signed With Hungary, CSSR
FL241016 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Cuba and Hungary reached important agreements on the supply of spare parts for buses during intergovernmental talks held recently. The agreements guarantee the supply of parts from now until 1990. They include an official order made by Cuba amounting to 24 million rubbles; 8.7 million of which was ordered last December and 2,000 joints ordered as an advance of the 1988 plan.

A contract covering the remaining 15 million rubbles and completing the 24 million-worth of supplies agreed on will be signed next month. These amounts already agreed on by Hungary—if partial supplies are delivered on time—should meet the needs of spare parts for Icarus buses. This will not be noticed immediately, however.

On another matter, agreements signed with the CSSR yielded positive results for our country's supply of new gearboxes and parts for their repair. They will be used in the (Nuvanos) buses. Some 1,100 gearboxes will be supplied this year. The possibility of increasing this number to 1,500 is being considered. In this way, we will be able to meet what is pending from what was contracted last year. In line with the plan for the supply of these parts for 1990, 150 Cuban laborers will be sent to the CSSR to manufacture these goods for Prague gearboxes spare parts used in Icarus buses.

CEMA Meeting on Machine Manufacturing Begins
FL240302 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Cuba's efforts to manufacture machinery, especially in the naval sector, were praised today in Havana City by Aldo Margolles, Cuba's representative to the fourth CEMA branch.

Margolles inaugurated a CEMA plenary meeting in Havana on the production of ships, naval equipment, and technological products used in shipyards.

As part of the agreements that will be signed at the meeting, Cuba will receive passenger ships, a floating crane, a crane with a scoop [de cangilones], and a floating dock from the USSR.

Caricom

CCC Leader on Haiti's Political Situation
FL242344 Bridgetown CANA in English 2127 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Feb 24, CANA—General secretary of the Barbados-based Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC), Rev. Allan Kirton, says the political situation in Haiti is quiet at present but could erupt anytime.

He made the remarks here on Tuesday night at a public forum on Haiti in response to a question on what could be done to bring about genuine democracy in Haiti following the widely-condemned January 17 elections.

Kirton said the situation in Haiti was made difficult by the fact that the opposition figures who had boycotted the elections had gone underground either inside the country or in the neighboring Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. He indicated the CCC was trying to engage these leaders in a programme of consultation, but declined to give details.

"The people who could continue to give the kind of lead to the general population are not there", said Kirton, who visits Haiti once a month.

He spoke of the CCC having some ideas of its own on the way forward for Haiti but its position has always been to allow the Haitians "to tell us what they want to do."

"The important thing that the CCC is trying to do is not to do things for people, not to tell them what to do but to accompany them in the things that they feel they want to do to bring about change in their country", he said.

Kirton also felt that the new Haitian President Leslie Manigat would not be able to deliver on the promises he made to Haitians in the election campaign. He said that it would take a lot of "gymnastics" on the part of Manigat, the former head of the School of International Relations at the University of the West Indies (UWI) to achieve promises made.

According to Kirton, under the new Haitian constitution the power is no longer in the hands of the president as was the case under the Duvalier dynasty but in the prime minister and parliament.

The CCC head stressed that in the elections, 80 percent of the seats were won by Duveralist candidates and as such the prime minister must be from [words indistinct]. "So if Mr Manigat thinks that he is going to get his way in Parliament under the new constitution, he has a few things coming", Kirton said.

He said Manigat had inherited an empty treasury and that the only organisation which had money in Haiti was the army which in the last two years made serious attempts to become independent "of the people who have manipulated them in the past". He alleged that the army accumulated its vast wealth from its involvement in the drug trade.

The CCC head also indicated that there would be a threat to Manigat from Colonel Jean-Claude Paul whom he described as the head of the feared Tonton Macoutes which was created by Duvalier to keep political opponents in check. Kirton said Paul was a powerful figure in Haiti and controlled the garrison attached to the palace where Manigat lives. In addition, he said the garrison is the place that stores all the ammunition for the Haitian army.

"So if Jean-Claude Paul tells you, you ain't getting no bullets, you ain't getting no bullets," Kirton remarked.

Antigua and Barbuda

Heath Rules Out UNDP Coalition With ACLM

FL281840 Bridgetown CANA in English 1821 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] St. Johns, Antigua, Feb 23, CANA—The Social Democratic United National Democratic Party (UNDP), one of the two main opposition political parties here, has ruled out any possibility of a coalition with the leftwing Antigua-Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM) to contest the next elections.

UNDP leader, Dr. Ivor Heath, said that as far as his party was concerned the issue of an accommodation with the ACLM was now completely dead, as far as this election is concerned. We tried our best (to reach agreement on accommodation) because we realise a unified opposition would have been the best thing to present to the electorate, Heath added.

The UNDP and ACLM held talks about possible accommodation for the next elections, but the discussions collapsed.

UNDP is itself a merger of two political parties—Heath's own National Democratic Party (NDP) which was formed after the 1984 elections, and trade unionist George Walters' United People's Movement (UPM), which was a splinter from the Progressive Labour Movement (PLM).

Both the UPM and the PLM contested the 1984 elections, but neither won a seat. The UPM was virtually disbanded when it merged with the NDP, while the PLM has been largely inactive since the elections.

ACLM stayed away from the elections because of the failure of the opposition parties to agree to a coalition to contest the polls.

Bahamas

PLP Rejects Charges Against Prime Minister

FL241827 Bridgetown CANA in English 1456 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Feb 23, CANA—The ruling Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) of the Bahamas prime minister, Sir Lynden Pindling, on Tuesday strongly denied that the country's leadership was involved in protecting drug traffickers.

The PLP, in a statement issued through its chairman, Sean McWeeney, rejected allegations made in a Florida court by self-confessed drug dealer Bill Baron that he had paid protection money to Sir Lynden, including on one occasion in the presence of his deputy, Clement Maynard. Maynard also rejected the charges at a news conference in Barbados last week, during a visit to discuss tourism tracking programmes with the Caribbean Tourism Research and Development Centre (CTRC) in Bridgetown.

The PLP said that both Sir Lynden and Maynard were the targets of narrowly-based foreign elements and their lying propaganda. The statement dismissed the allegations as a rehash of similar tall tales and trumped-up fiction told to a royal commission which investigated the narcotics trade through the Bahamian islands in 1983.

Where was Baron during the 1983 commission of inquiry...why didn't he tell his preposterous and utterly outrageous story then? McWeeney asked in the statement.

The statement from the PLP chairman in effect, reverses a declaration from the government press secretary, William Kalis, that the administration will refrain from answering the allegations made in the Florida court.

Analysts here believe that the ruling party may have decided to issue a response, following efforts by an opposition member of parliament to have the chamber debate the issue as a matter of urgent public importance.

Dominican Republic

Farmers Strike To Protest Economic Policies

FL242040 Bonaire Trans World Service in English 1130 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Farmers in central Dominican provinces have gone on strike to protest government economic policies. What began as a peaceful protest 10 days ago by residents of the small rural community in the Dominican Republic central region has now spread to a major strike throughout all three provinces. The farmers are demanding the government relocate them claiming that water contamination allegedly produced by the (?Nerni) state-owned gold mine is causing serious health problems.

Guadeloupe

UPLG Denies Role in January Bomb Explosions

FL241810 Bridgetown CANA in English 1839 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe, Feb 23, CANA—One of the main independence organisations in Guadeloupe (UPLG), on Tuesday denied involvement in five bomb explosions which hit the island in late January.

Dr. Claude Makouke, UPLG general secretary said his organisation participated neither in planning or executing the attacks. He also denied that UPLG had any prior knowledge of the attacks.

Makouke said violence is not the strategy of the UPLG in its struggle for Guadeloupean independence, but there are possibly other militant groups which saw things differently. He said the UPLG had decided on the electoral and mass mobilisation path to independence.

Makouke said his organisation, in keeping with a recent major policy change, would be contesting all future local elections though it was still urging a boycott of French presidential elections, one of which is scheduled for this year.

The UPLG performed badly in recent elections for a local council seat, being eliminated in the first round of polling. However Makouke said he is putting this down as much needed experience for future elections.

Trinidad and Tobago

Robinson 'To Intensify' Antidrug Campaign

FL241832 Bridgetown CANA in English 2326 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 23, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago leader A.N.R. Robinson said on Tuesday his 14-month administration plans to intensify its campaign against the growing drug trade.

Prime Minister Robinson told parliament he had written his Canadian counterpart Brian Mulroney seeking closer co-operation following growing reports linking drug trafficking in Canada with the twin island Caribbean state.

Robinson read from a TORONTO STAR February 3 article which linked Trinidad and Tobago with drug trafficking gangs operating in parts of Canada. The implications of these articles for Trinidad and Tobago's international reputation are obvious, Robinson said. He told parliamentarians that Attorney General Selwyn Richardson and National Security Minister Senator Herbert Atwell had been in continuous contact with the United States and Canadian ambassadors here on drugs and white collar crime. These are subjects which transcend our respective national frontiers, Robinson said.

As part of the programme with Canada, Robinson said he'd asked for an early exchange of police officials engaged in drug detection. He has also suggested this country's high commissioner to Canada write to the STAR pointing out that efforts are being made to deal with the illicit drug trade.

Robinson said his administration was also working to deal with white collar crime and would soon receive two experts following talks with the commercial crime unit of the London-based Commonwealth Secretariat. The experts would help Trinidad and Tobago in setting up a specialist body to deal with his growing cancer, Robinson said.

Condemns Disinformation Campaign

FL241916 Bridgetown CANA in English 2316 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text]Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 23, CANA—Embattled Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson lashed out at his critics at home and abroad on Tuesday saying they were on a disinformation campaign.

I condemn the vicious campaign of disinformation being waged against this government by opportunist and unscrupulous elements bent on a disastrous course, Robinson said in a 25-minute statement to Parliament.

Robinson cited two foreign press reports as presenting a negative image of Trinidad and Tobago. He said an article in the Washington paper, CAPITAL SPOTLIGHT, claimed his government was anti-African, and one in India's HINDUSTAN TIMES accused it of being against locals of Indian and European descent.

Naming the two locally based reporters who had written the articles, Robinson said the situation would be laughable if the potential consequences were not so tragic. It graphically portrays how a government committed to justice, equality and fair play can come under unfair and unjust criticism from adventurist and opportunist elements in the society, Robinson said.

The Trinidad leader went to great lengths to explain the status of a proposed Indian cultural centre awaiting the necessary diplomatic clearance before construction.

The HINDUSTAN TIMES article claimed the government had turned down the application and annoyed deputy party leader, Basdeo Panday, an Indo-Trinidadian who was fired as foreign minister earlier this month.

Robinson also picked up on a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) report on carnival Tuesday which has sparked off controversy locally after also being broadcast live on local television.

The government has reason to believe, Mr. Speaker, that the negative international publicity promoted by the (British Independent TV) film, The Gathering Storm, and the recent absurd projection of our carnival to a live international audience by one Darcus Howe of the BBC form part of the same disinformation campaign, Robinson said.

Trinidad-born, British-based Howe produced The Gathering Storm documentary on the problems of Robinson's then new government, which also provoked controversy last year. The government stands committed to promote the welfare of all our citizens regardless of racial origin, Robinson said.

I as prime minister am totally committed to the struggle against racism in all its forms as I have stated frequently at home and recently at the United Nations and at the Commonwealth heads of government conference in Vancouver. I have declared resolutely in defense of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Trinidad and Tobago.

Public Service Permanent Secretaries Reshuffled

FL241912 Bridgetown CANA in English 1430 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 23, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's Public Service has had a second reshuffle of permanent secretaries over the last week with the prime minister's Information Division taking on a new look.

Head of the Public Service, Eugenio Moore, who is due to go on pre-retirement leave this month, has moved around permanent secretaries to most government ministries—one year after the National Alliance for Reconstruction government saw its first reshuffle of permanent secretaries. The changes were phased in after carnival celebrations that ended last week.

No-one has yet been named as Moore's predecessor at the top of civil service and Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson's own permanent secretary but former permanent secretary in the Prime Minister's Information Division Office, Dr. Barry Auguste, has been moved to Robinson's Whitehall office to take over constitutional and other matters. This made way for a series of changes at the Information Division, formerly the Information Ministry, which now becomes a relatively autonomous body without a permanent secretary.

Robinson's communications advisor, former journalist Dr. Gregory Shaw, is now director of information services in charge of government information including the government broadcasting units and press sections.

Many of the permanent secretaries, being sent on leave, have gathered up to almost a year in vacation leave never taken. The Public Services Association (PSA) has been thrashing out ways with Moore to regularise tenure within the service and clear up such outstanding vacation and remove acting positions.

Robinson avoided cuts in the Public Service in his 1988 budget, instead announcing plans to review each position in the 65,000 strong service this year.

Ex-NP Officers Arrested, Charged With Fraud

FL241930 Bridgetown CANA in English 1352 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 23, CANA—The former chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Company, National Petroleum (NP), Richard Toby, and another ex-NP official, George Lynch, have been arrested and charged on fraud-related offences, police reported Tuesday.

Toby was chairman of the state-run Petroleum Marketing Company until the change in governments 14 months ago. Lynch is a former NP administrative manager.

The two were arrested after a week of investigations by the police fraud squad. They were taken before a justice of the peace and charged. They go before a Port-of-Spain magistrate Tuesday morning. They face 17 charges related to the fraudulent issue of cheques in 1986 for work purportedly done on behalf of NP. The two were put on TT141,000 dollars (one TT dollar; 27.7 U.S. cents) bail each.

Toby is a tax expert and former chairman of the Inland Revenue Office and fiscal advisor to an earlier government.

Police sources told CANA investigations involving other former state company chairmen are continuing.

Salinas de Gortari Proposes Economic Plan

PA250034 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 13 Feb 88 pp 1a, 18a, 36a

[Speech by Carlos Salinas de Gortari in Durango on 12 February presenting 10-point plan to modernize Mexico's consumer economy]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] 1. We must openly and frankly consider changing the legal system. Among other things, we must replace our obsolete Code of Commerce. There is another aspect I believe is important and essential: Decentralization of economic power to the states and municipalities. We must specifically create legislation supporting the creation of networks of volunteer businessmen [cadenas voluntarias de comerciantes].

2. We must integrate producers into the economic cycle. In this regard, it has been said—and rightly so—that this is one of the most important incentives for creating fairer prices for producers. This would also decrease excessive markups, allowing consumers to enjoy more attractive prices.

How can producers be integrated into the economic cycle? Several steps are required. We need to modernize distribution systems; create needed collection centers; build a distribution system that will allow producers to transport their products; establish markets not only at destination points but also at points of origin, giving producers greater opportunities to sell their products; and encourage agricultural producers and cattle raisers to establish associations. We need resources. We will make available all the necessary financing to ensure this essential link between producers and consumers

I know the social sector, through the National Peasant Confederation, Independent Peasant Confederation, and the National Small Property Confederation, is already finding ways to link producers and consumers. We will strengthen such links and other links that citizens believe to be useful and appropriate in doing justice to producers and consumers.

3. It is essential to strengthen the budding information system available to producers. We will strengthen the national information system to ensure producers have the information they need on volume, price, and quality in the market and to prevent middlemen from cheating them.

Specifically, we must strengthen the information system regarding perishable goods. Besides being constrained by a specific production cycle, producers and consumers are also subjected to greater abuse from middlemen.

We will encourage wholesalers to modernize their distribution systems.

4. We will eliminate problems and red tape to ensure the transportation system will help modernize the consumer economy. Modernizing the transportation system is a prerequisite to modernizing the consumer economy.

Peasants and small producers are already organizing transportation systems for their products. We will hold talks with transporters to find ways of ensuring the efficient transportation systems needed to modernize the consumer economy.

5. We will encourage the creation in urban areas of a nonsubsidized commercial infrastructure.

I will firmly encourage the granting of licenses for the establishment of modern business systems that will introduce the efficient methods required by the modern system we aspire to.

I will also support the modernization of small- and medium-size businesses. We will continue to strengthen and open stores in the most remote communities to prevent the abuse of peasants by unscrupulous middlemen.

We will acknowledge with actions that commercial activity is essential for development. Let us modernize it.

6. We will restructure the commercial system to ensure coordinated work between wholesalers and retailers.

We will promote voluntary networks and, above all, support the widening of markets.

This is another aspect of our task. We are stressing our support for producers to ensure they will learn new production methods; however, we have not done enough to teach them to market their products.

7. We will support the creation of wholesale markets. In this way, we will also promote direct links between producers and consumers.

Urban consumers constantly complain about a shortage of markets. Illegal practices, which are daily occurrences in the street markets and which reflect the difficult situation consumers face, to a great extent also reflect a shortage of markets.

8. I will put special emphasis on creating supply systems in rural areas and poorer neighborhoods. We will thus eradicate the unacceptable system under which those who have less pay higher prices because of archaic, abusive practices.

9. We will continue to correct excessive price increases. We must acknowledge that cost increases are reflected in price increases during inflationary periods. We must not, however, allow excessive price increases and repricing

policies to go beyond reflecting cost increases, and we must not use inflation as an excuse to adopt measures that ultimately worsen the situation.

10. Modernizing the distribution and supply system is a basic goal in my campaign. This goal will be fulfilled by the government I hope to head.

I admit there has been very important progress in the consumer economy, but it is not enough, especially for lower income communities.

I am firmly determined to remove all obstacles on the way to achieving the modern consumer economy demanded by Mexicans. This is one of the people's most pressing needs, and we will meet it.

Nobody will be left out of this task. We must all participate: producers, businessmen, consumers, political parties, and social organizations. We need firm, efficient actions from the government: the kind of actions demanded by Mexicans. Thank you very much.

Costa Rica

Minister Confirms Existence of Contra Radios

PA241933 Paris AFP in Spanish 0611 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] San Jose, 23 Feb (AFP)—Hernan Garron, Costa Rican minister of public security, today reported that officials have confirmed the existence of "contra" radio stations in the country.

Garron said the radio stations have not yet been located, but noted that he possesses recordings of programs these stations have broadcast in Costa Rican territory.

Minister Garron pointed out that a Nicaraguan Government official is cooperating in the investigation to locate the Nicaraguan rebel stations.

In his statement to the media, Garron said that many of the recorded broadcasts concern contra logistical matters.

The Nicaraguan Government reported at the beginning of this year the operation in Costa Rican territory of three "contra" radio stations.

According to reports by Nicaraguan officials, two of the radio stations are used for intercommunications and are located in northern Costa Rica.

The third radio station reportedly supports the rebels' actions and is located in the downtown San Jose area.

The names and frequencies of the radio stations were not disclosed.

El Salvador

FMLN Concludes Transportation Stoppage

PA250220 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0045 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] The FMLN General Command calls for the end of the national transportation stoppage at midnight tonight, Wednesday, 24 February. We repeat, at midnight tonight, Wednesday, 24 February, the FMLN General Command's order is suspended. All roads throughout El Salvador will be reopened as of midnight tonight, Wednesday, 24 February.

Guatemala

'Guerrillas' Wound 18 Soldiers in El Quiche

PA250301 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Guerrillas attacked a military detachment in Nebaj, El Quiche Department in an engagement that left approximately 20 persons wounded, it was learned from unofficial sources. The attack, which was launched by the (Manuel Tok) guerrilla column, turned into a more than 2-hour long battle at midday last Sunday, according to unofficial reports reaching Guatemala City.

The subversives attacked the military detachment in Nebaj Hollow. This detachment is comprised of approximately 75 soldiers, including officers and forces with grenades and heavy artillery. The guerrilla operation was repelled by the task force that has been in that area for several months on counterinsurgency operations.

Eighteen soldiers were wounded—1 infantry lieutenant, 2 sergeants, 2 corporals, and 13 privates—all of whom were flown to Guatemala City for emergency medical treatment.

It was learned that the EGP [Poor People's Guerrilla Army] suffered a similar number of casualties, although their comrades took the wounded to their hideouts.

Military reinforcements from El Quiche Military Zone and the Air Force were sent to the area of the clash in the afternoon to try to capture the guerrillas who carried out the attack, the sources noted.

Nicaragua

Further on Tinoco Comments on Cease-Fire Talks

PA250035 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 20 Feb 88 pp 1, 5

[Text] "We can say right now that we are willing to resume cease-fire talks with the counterrevolutionary leaders if the U.S. Administration allows them to meet with us again next week," Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco told BARRICADA from Guatemala.

The head of the Nicaraguan delegation said it was "lamentable" that something as urgent as negotiations for an end to the bloodshed in Nicaragua should have been suspended yesterday by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, who heads the mediating team, allegedly because the cardinal concluded there was mutual mistrust on the part of the two negotiating sides.

Tinoco stated that on Thursday [18 February], an hour after talks began on the first point concerning the definition a cease-fire zone contained in the document of points of agreement prepared by the mediators based on the two proposals previously presented by both sides in Costa Rica, Cardinal Obando y Bravo and his team presented another proposal containing four demands for Nicaragua, and a single demand for the contras. Nicaragua was being asked to modify the Patriotic Military Service and to fulfill three commitments of the general Esquipulas agreements, which have nothing to do with the cease-fire: total amnesty, unrestricted freedom of the press, and the resumption of the internal political dialogue.

On the other hand, the contras were being asked only to do something related to the cease-fire, and the demand was imprecise, confusing, and vague. It stated, Tinoco continued, that the contras would have to concentrate in zones or enclaves during a cease-fire. That is how things stood at the close of Thursday's session.

On Friday morning, the Nicaraguan deputy foreign minister added, "We told the cardinal that we considered his demands to be positive—after all, they are already being implemented in Nicaragua—but that before proceeding to discuss them, it was necessary for him to convince the contras it would be necessary for the portion of the proposal that referred to them to be made more precise.

"In other words, it would be necessary to state when the cease-fire would begin, how it would be implemented, who would verify it, what mechanisms would be used, what these zones or concentrated enclaves would be like, how supplies would be sent to the contras in these enclaves, etc."

The cardinal and his team met from 1100 to 1200 that day with the counterrevolutionary delegation, and, at approximately 1300, they called us, Tinoco noted. He added that in a matter of 5 minutes, they told us that their mediating group had decided not to continue working during that negotiating session. They alleged that the contras doubted the willingness of the Nicaraguan Government to democratize the country, while the government doubted the contras' readiness to negotiate a cease-fire.

Therefore, we gave the cardinal our official proposal in writing—to first discuss the cease-fire in depth and later to discuss the demands that the mediators were making of Nicaragua—and we added a very important point; namely, that once the cease-fire agreement was signed, the Nicaraguan Government would be willing to have the contras send observers to the national dialogue with the political parties.

"It is lamentable that the mediators should have decided to not continue that round of negotiations without first asking us for an alternative, and without first considering the official proposal that we gave them, which includes the matter of observers attending the national dialogue in Nicaragua. This was a new gesture on our part, a new step for progressing toward the cease-fire," the deputy foreign minister stated.

"We are prepared to meet again with the counterrevolutionary delegation as soon as possible, because we do not want the conflict and bloodshed in Nicaragua to continue," Tinoco added.

In his opinion, the counterrevolutionaries do not desire a cease-fire, because they continue to be advised, influenced, and directed by members of the U.S. Administration, which wants the war to continue and which does not want a cease-fire.

He added: Nicaragua, which is interested in peace, is prepared to guarantee internal political opportunities for the contras, so they can give up their military activities in exchange for a political struggle, as Esquipulas requests.

"We hope the mediators and the counterrevolutionary leaders will agree to discuss the cease-fire without including political matters that are covered by other points of the Central American presidents' agreement," Tinoco declared emphatically.

'Mercenaries' Sabotage TELCOR Relay Tower

PA241924 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1814 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] We have received reports from Esteli to the effect that mercenaries of the Reagan administration last night sabotaged a TELCOR [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services] relay tower in (Las Gallinas) Esteli. As a result, the entire Segovias region has been left without communications. The criminal act carried out by Reagan's paid criminals against one microwave tower not only affects our national communications, but Central American communications as well. The Central American countries will be able to establish communications only through the satellite, which represents a higher cost in dollars.

The TELCOR regional delegate in Esteli, German Cruz Talavera, reported that workers who were guarding the TELCOR plant heroically resisted the attack by the mercenaries. It was also reported that TELCOR workers began early this morning to repair the damage caused by the Somozists.

Ortega Decree on Monetary Conversion Published

PA182000 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 15 Feb 88 p 7

[Government Decree No 306 on monetary conversion issued by President Daniel Ortega 14 February in Managua; passages in uppercase as published]

[Text] THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA, WHEREAS: First

It is the duty of the government to defend the national economy. Second

Under the program for stabilizing the economy that the revolutionary government has been implementing since 1985, it has been decided to unify the exchange rate to redress the distortion of relative prices and to encourage exports. Third

The program for stabilizing the economy reflects the unanimous desire of the Nicaraguan people to fight inflation. Fourth

Under the limitations imposed on us by the unjust imperialist war, which makes it impossible to eliminate deficits, the monetary measures are an important economic policy tool to curb inflation. Fifth

It is the duty of all Nicaraguans to participate in the defense of the homeland and its economy. Sixth

It is fair to acknowledge the users' confidence in the banks of the National Financial System; and Seventh

The defense and protection of working people's real wages and promoting production within the mixed economy system are fundamental. Therefore:

In accordance with Article 138, Section 16; and Article 150, Section 7 of the political Constitution of the Republic of Nicaragua and Annual Delegatory Decree Law A.N. [expansion unknown] No 001 issued by the National Assembly on 16 December 1987, and published in the official daily "LA GACETA" on 23 December 1987, in exercising his powers, ENACTS THE FOLLOWING CONVERSION LAW:

Chapter 1, DEMONETIZATION AND EXCHANGE OF THE MONETARY UNIT [subhead]

Article 1

As of 0000 on 15 February 1988, the legal cordoba bills and coins previously issued and placed in circulation are deprived of monetary value, and permission to circulate and to use them becomes illegal. Therefore, they will have no value and will not serve to fulfill any kind of obligation, except for cases included in Article 15 of this law.

Article 2

In accordance with the previous article, the demonetized cordoba bills and coins will be exchanged for the cordoba bills and coins placed into circulation on 15 February 1988, in accordance with Resolution CD-BCN-VIII-1-88 issued by the board of directors of the Nicaraguan Central Bank on 14 February 1988, which was ratified by Decree No 305 of 14 February 1988.

Article 3.

The exchange rate for the new cordobas will be 10 cordobas for $1. (C$10.00 X US$1.00).

Article 4

The new cordoba corresponds to 1,000 demonetized cordoba bills.

Article 5

The demonetized cordoba bills and coins to be exchanged will be exchanged for the new cordobas at the value established by the previous article.

Article 6

Uncashed checks and demonetized cordobas deposited in any bank of the national banking system need not be brought in to be exchanged; they will be automatically changed by converting their value. The deposits will remain at the disposal of their owners without limitations.

Chapter 2, REGULATIONS CONTROLLING THE EXCHANGE [subhead]

Article 7

The bearers of demonetized cordoba bills and coins need only visit any of the following places one time to exchange them:

I. Exchange places designated by the Nicaraguan Central Bank are for:

1. Individuals representing the family nucleus, regardless of the amount to be exchanged.

2. Self-employed individuals when the amount to be exchanged is less than 10 million demonetized cordobas.

II. Branches and agencies belonging to the National Financial System are for:

1. Corporations of any sort and recognized organizations that do not have legal status.

The persons who make the exchange on behalf of the above-mentioned persons can conduct their own personal exchange at this site if they so desire.

2. Nicaraguan citizens or resident aliens who are self-employed, and who in their dual role as individuals and economic entities bring amounts over 10 million demonetized cordobas to be exchanged.

3. Nonresident aliens and tourists.

III. Branches and agencies belonging to the National Financial System where they have received bank loans are for:

1. Agricultural and livestock producers who in their dual role as individuals and economically active persons who bring in amounts larger than 10 million demonetized cordobas to be exchanged.

In all cases, the interested party will fill out a request form that will be provided at the exchange center. In this form, the interested party will present a sworn statement.

Article 8

The Central Bank of Nicaragua will set up special exchange offices for the following organizations:

a. State organizations, such as ministries, autonomous and decentralized institutes, and regional and municipal government offices.

b. Churches, religious congregations and orders, political parties, political and social organizations, trade and labor unions, and associations of professionals and producers.

In the case of the Defense and Interior Ministries, the respective financial offices are entrusted with carrying out the exchange for their personnel who are at the battlefronts and those who were participating in the mobilization or were in service at the time of the exchange.

The Foreign Ministry will grant special provisions for exchange to the diplomatic and consular corps, international organizations, and any other similar institutions that are accredited or operating in the country. A special exchange center will be established in their own offices.

The exchange will be made only once and will include the demonetized bills and coins of the mission, organization, agency, institution, etcetera; and of its accredited staff. It will be done through a request filled out in a form that will be provided and that must be presented by the chief of mission or the representative of the organization.

Article 9

The demonetized cordoba bills and coins that were deposited in any of the central banks and regional or international financial organizations with which Nicaragua has exchange, payment, or compensation agreements will be exchanged up to the maximum amount established by said agreements in the form, manner, and term determined by the Central Bank of Nicaragua.

Article 10

Demonetized cordoba bills and coins will be exchanged on the following scheduled days:

a. Bills of 500 cordobas and above will be exchanged on 15, 16, and 17 February from 0800 to 1800;

b. Bills of 100, 50, 20, and 10 cordobas; 1- and 5-cordoba coins; and 5-, 10-, 25-, and 50-centavo coins will be presented for exchange within the next 60 days following 22 February during the normal hours of any office of the banks coming under the National Financial System.

Article 11

The quantity to be delivered in new cordoba bills and coins at the time of the exchange will amount up to 10,000 new cordobas—equivalent to 10 million demonetized cordobas—for private citizens, corporations, and organizations. This includes persons who are Nicaraguan citizens and the foreign residents who can prove their status as such.

Private citizens having their own economic activities will be given new cordoba bills and coins up to an amount equal to the amount listed in the previous paragraph, provided there is legitimate proof of their economic activities.

Demonetized cordobas will be exchanged only from tourists and nonresident foreigners who present an exchange document that is duly backed by an authorized institution. The amounts that are not backed will be retained.

Article 12

Requirements to exchange demonetized cordoba bills:

a. Private citizens who represent a family nucleus must present their consumer card issued by the Ministry of Domestic Trade. In areas where this card has not been issued, citizens may present any legal identification document. If they do not possess one, they may then bring witnesses to vouch for their identities.

b. Organizations will present the documents accrediting them.

Article 13

New cordobas will be exchanged as follows:

a. In bills and coins up to the amount mentioned in Article 11 of this law. b. Any amount over that figure will be included in a Certificate of Special Deposit issued in the name of the depositor at the terms and interest rates established by the Central Bank of Nicaragua through a general resolution and taking into consideration the amount.

Article 14

The Certificates of Special Deposit can be redeemed before the term expires provided there is duly justified need.

Chapter III, SPECIAL EXCHANGE DISPOSITIONS [subhead]

Article 15

For a period of time beginning 1 hour after this decree has been issued, and ending at 1530 on 18 February, the demonetized cordoba bills and coins can be used as legal tender to pay for the following private and public services rendered directly and personally to the population: hospitals, clinics, transportation, gasoline stations, funeral parlors, and drugstore purchases.

As for sales by gasoline stations, customers may pay the new price with new or demonetized cordobas, at the rate of 1,000 demonetized cordobas for each 1 new cordoba.

Demonetized cordobas can be used to pay for newspapers on 15 February.

Demonetized cordoba bills and coins received for payment according to this article can be exchanged at the offices and agencies of the National Financial System, if accompanied by the necessary vouchers for the term expiring on 18 February of this year.

In that case, if the sum to be exchanged exceeds 10 million demonetized cordobas, a special deposit will not be necessary.

Article 16

The demonetized cordoba bills and coins not exchanged on the scheduled days and places will not be exchanged at all. However, holders of demonetized cordobas, who for reasons of proven dire necessity could not exchange them at these times and places, will be able to do so at the nearest bank or exchange office within a 30-day period beginning 18 February. In these cases, a document proving the claimed dire necessity will be issued and submitted to the Nicaraguan Central Bank for its investigation of the case and to approve or reject the exchange request.

Article 17

During the period of exchange established by this law, only the banks of the National Financial System will attend to this operation.

Any type of monetary deadline expiring within the period indicated in the previous paragraph will fall due on the day after this period ends. All timely met obligations will neither incur interest nor become overdue debts.

Article 18

Those resorting to the following maneuvers to benefit themselves illegally or benefit others in the exchange program will be sentenced to 1 to 6 months in jail or the loss of the money to be exchanged:

a. Providing false information on the exchange request form.

b. Using an intermediary to facilitate the exchange of money of third parties.

c. Using consumer cards or any other license fraudulently or against this law.

d. Exchanging money more than once, thus violating what this law establishes in Paragraph 1 of Article 7.

Chapter IV, NORMS FOR THE CONVERSION OF VALUABLES [subhead]

Article 19

As of 15 February, all bank deposits, drawn checks, checking accounts, loan balances, or loaned money ready to be withdrawn; overdue wages; accounting and financial statements; all monetary expressions that can be exchanged in local currency; and all monetary values in demonetized cordobas will be converted to their corresponding value in new cordobas by applying the conversion table established in Article No 4 of this law—1,000 demonetized cordobas for 1 new cordoba, with the special exceptions established in this chapter.

Through measures issued by the relevant organizations, the executive branch will be able to authorize the issuance of special financial and accounting statements up to 15 February to resolve the problems described in the following articles.

Article 20

The balances of long-term loans acquired before 15 February in banks belonging to the National Financial System, the Nicaraguan Investment Fund, or the Nicaraguan Housing Bank must be modified before they are converted to new cordobas, based on the following monetary correction factor:

YEAR	FACTOR	YEAR	FACTOR
1982 and previous years	44.05		
1983		1984	
1st quarter	44.05	1st quarter	39.21
2d quarter	42.79	2d quarter	38.18
3d quarter	41.56	3d quarter	37.18
4th quarter	40.36	4th quarter	36.21

YEAR	FACTOR	YEAR	FACTOR
1985		1986	

YEAR	FACTOR	YEAR	FACTOR
1982 and previous years	44.05		
1983		1984	
1st quarter	35.26	1st quarter	25.75
2d quarter	32.60	2d quarter	23.26
3d quarter	30.14	3d quarter	21.01
4th quarter	27.86	4th quarter	18.98

YEAR	FACTOR	YEAR	FACTOR
1987		1988	
1st quarter	17.14	1st quarter	9.68
2d quarter	14.86		
3d quarter	12.88		
4th quarter	11.17		

This article includes the downpayments on the sales contracts acquired with the Nicaraguan Housing Bank.

Article 21

The balances of monetary obligations different from those indicated in the previous article and acquired before 15 February under a monetary correction clause will be modified on that same day prior to their conversion into new cordobas. This conversion will be based on a rate that will depend on the amount of time passed since the obligations were acquired and the basis on which they were acquired. The interest rates agreed upon will affect the value in demonetized cordobas prior to its conversion into new cordobas.

Article 22

Obligations concerning lease contracts will be converted into new cordobas in accordance with the conversion factor the Nicaraguan Housing Ministry will issue before 31 March 1988.

Article 23

The conversion of time-deposit balances in banks belonging to the National Financial System will be based on the following monetary conversion factor:

YEAR	FACTOR	YEAR	FACTOR
1982 and prior years	89.07	1986 1st quarter	40.26
1983 1st quarter	89.07	2d quarter	34.68
2d quarter	85.29	3d quarter	29.88
3d quarter	81.67	4th quarter	25.74
4th quarter	78.20		
		1987 1st quarter	22.18
1984 1st quarter	74.88	2d quarter	18.03
2d quarter	71.98	3d quarter	14.65
3d quarter	69.19	4th quarter	11.91
4th quarter	66.52		
		1988 1st quarter	9.68
1985 1st quarter	63.94		
2d quarter	56.96		

YEAR	FACTOR	YEAR	FACTOR
1982 and prior years	89.07	1986 1st quarter	40.26
1983 1st quarter	89.07	2d quarter	34.68
3d quarter	50.74		
4th quarter	45.20		

Article 24

The face value of Agrarian Reform and Agrarian Compensation Bonds issued prior to 15 February must be readjusted, prior to their conversion, by implementing the monetary correction factor specified in the previous article.

The value assigned to properties that have been affected by the Agrarian Reform but whose bonds have not been issued to date, should be reviewed prior to their conversion.

Article 25

Credits in favor of the state and municipalities for appraisals, taxes, contributions, fines, surtaxes, and interest accruals; and advance payments, installments, withholdings, restitutions [repeticiones], refunds, and compensations to taxpayers existing prior to 15 February must be readjusted, prior to their conversion, by implementing the monetary correction factors established in Article 20 of this law.

Article 26

Credits collected through courts, and credits that are part of legal procedures for the suspension of payments, bankruptcy, or settlements out of court dated prior to 15 February should be brought up to date according to the applicable procedures for each case. Their respective amounts will then be converted to new cordobas under the terms established in Article 4 of this law. Article 27

The general income and expenses budget, and any other budgets specified in demonetized cordobas, will be converted to new cordobas only after calculating the respective decrease resulting in the correction of the inflation rate established for all the budget credits, according to Decree No 294, which was published in the official gazette on 29 December 1987.

Chapter V, GENERAL DISPOSITIONS [subhead]

Article 28

The legal exchange rate established in Article 3 of this law can be changed according to the dispositions of the Monetary Law.

Article 29

Within the implementation of this law, the Central Bank of Nicaragua is authorized to do the following:

a. Issue resolutions and implement the appropriate measures to settle unforeseen problems concerning the exchange of paper money and coins, and the conversion of assets.

b. Settle problems by rounding off or eliminating fractions, in cents, from new cordobas, if the resulting exchange of demonetized paper money and coins makes this necessary.

c. Establish norms and mechanisms for the allotment of special long-term deposits, mentioned in Article 13 of this law, to the different banking institutions comprising the National Financial System.

d. Establish the appropriate measures to maintain the value of Nicaragua's capital contributions, in national currency, to regional, international, and subregional institutions.

e. Settle matters concerning the system to for guaranteeing foreign exchange rates for the foreign debt agreements and payments that were negotiated in the past and have been affected by variations in the new type of legal tender.

f. Issue the necessary regulations to collect the surplus resulting from the conversion of the financing approved for exporting companies, and the foreign exchange rate paid to exporting companies.

Article 30

The Finance Ministry is authorized to issue regulations for implementing Articles 24, 25, and 27 of this law.

The Finance Ministry is also authorized to approve and regulate the reevaluation of equipment, furniture, and real estate included in profit-loss and patrimony reports.

Chapter VI, FINAL DISPOSITIONS [subhead]

Article 31

The Central Bank of Nicaragua is in charge of guaranteeing the implementation of this law. The government institutions, public enterprises, state-owned enterprises, private enterprises, civil authorities, and military authorities must freely offer the support and cooperation required by the National Bank of Nicaragua to implement the exchange of paper money.

Article 32

This is a public law and abolishes any disposition contrary to its nature. Article 33

This law will be enforced today, from the moment of its publication in any mass news media, and it will not be affected by its subsequent publication in the official daily THE GAZETTE.

Issued in the city of Managua on 14 February 1988.

"For a dignified peace...Free fatherland or death!"

Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president of the Republic

Panama

Delvalle Holds 2-Hour Meeting With Noriega

PA241957 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 24 Feb 88 p A-4

[From the "Names and Facts" column]

[Text] President Eric Arturo Delvalle held a 2-hour meeting on Monday afternoon with General Manuel Antonio Noriega and Colonel Marcos Justines [commander of the General Staff]. However, no official communique has been issued on this topic. This meeting obviously generated a great deal of speculation and comment in political circles.

Columnist on Delvalle, 'Deal' on Noriega

PA241626 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 24 Feb 88 p 4

["Political Coliseum" column by Baltazar Renan Aizpurua]

[Text] The president's suspicious silence concerning the propaganda campaign carried out by Panama's enemies in the United States could only be understood if he were ill-advised or if he believes these attacks are not attempts against the security of the state.

Everyone is aware of the president's efforts to hold a dialogue or reach an agreement with sectors that oppose his government. He even demobilized the Torrijist masses by ordering them off the streets, while the traitorous members of the National Civic Crusade thought they would gain power through their seditious moves. It is also known that in his effort to please his opponents, Mr Delvalle thought he would reach an understanding with the reactionary oligarchy due to the status of his own social class.

Not satisfied with all the hustle and bustle, the president has traveled to the United States three times since June 1987 to undergo medical tests and to make private visits. Despite his health, Mr Delvalle has carried out various activities, among them, talks with U.S. officials concerning Panama's political situation.

This would not be unusual or serious if it were not for the fact that Mr Delvalle represents the stateliness of the nation due to his position. Therefore, he owes some

respect to matters of protocol. The Panamanian president should not discuss or review the country's political matters with third- or fourth-level foreign officials. If Mr Delvalle wants to discuss these matters, he must do so at the highest level. He should meet with U.S. President Ronald Reagan or Secretary of State George Shultz.

However, that has not happened. It turns out that the president of all Panamanians is being a beggar of interviews in Washington, and that the arrogant Americans have been able to afford the luxury of sending a William Walker or an Elliott Abrams to meet with Delvalle. Abrams has been described as a liar by the U.S. Senate itself.

The Yankee press, which is out hunting for news that can harm Panama's image, reported on the latest trip by President Delvalle. It stated that Delvalle had met with the interventionist Elliott Abrams, the assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, with whom he discussed in Miami on 17 February the departure of General Manuel Antonio Noriega. This would be in exchange for a withdrawal of the accusations made against him [Noriega] in Tampa and Miami.

As for the aforementioned matter, a State Department spokesman said that Abrams "did not offer any type of deal and did not recommend the withdrawal of any charges. He also made clear to Delvalle that he did not have the authority to propose that deal." On 19 February, Charles Redman stated that the possibility of withdrawing the charges in exchange for Noriega's departure was a proposal made by the Panamanian side.

In view of the situation presented by that information, two clear possibilities emerge, in my opinion. Either Mr Delvalle made the proposal, or Elliott Abrams made it. It has also come to my attention that the Presidential Palace has denied absolutely nothing.

This situation implies something of a political game in which the nation's dignity is harmed. Yankee arrogance has not concealed its cheeky interest in Gen Noriega's departure, because he has become, along with his comrades in arms, an impassable wall opposing the lack of compliance with the canal treaties. They are tireless fighters who are making certain that the U.S. military occupation ceases on 31 December 1999. For that simple reason, no Panamanian, not even President Delvalle, may negotiate Gen Noriega's departure.

Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega will step down when his comrades in arms, the military, so decide. That is the law, and it is in the national Constitution. The reader may see Article 179, paragraph No 2; and Article 108 and Law No 20 of 1984.

Warrant Issued for Mayin Correa's Arrest

PA250320 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Today Daysi Sanchez de Palomino, fourth prosecutor of the First Penal Circuit, in an official note ordered the director of the National Department of Investigation to take the necessary measures to have Mrs Omayra Correa [a journalist and legislator], also known as Mayin Correa, arrested and presented to the court.

Outlining the reasons for Mayin Correa's preventive arrest, the prosecutor stated she [Correa] has been accused of libeling and slandering Major Cleto Hernandez Henry. The note adds that Mrs Correa has the right to the assistance of a lawyer in complying with any legal or police requirement.

Similarly, the fifth prosecutor, Agustin Sanjur Otero, today asked the police to ensure that Antonio Arias, another legislator, immediately appears at the office of the prosecutor. The note stated Arias is being summoned to answer questions in the investigation of crimes committed against the state and the national economy through news reports published by EL SIGLO newspaper.

Advertisement Criticizes Civic Clubs

PA241910 [Editorial Report] Panama City CRITICA in Spanish in its 24 February edition carries a "paid advertisement" on its back page, page 32, resembling an advertisement sponsored by Panamanian civic clubs within the framework of their campaign known as: "Awakening the National Conscience," which is aimed at restoring national moral values. The CRITICA spoof contains a photo of a child with a thought balloon that reads: "Father, what have you done for Panama?" The photo and the thought-balloon question is identical to the civic clubs' advertisement.

Underneath the photo of the child, there is a legend in red ink that reads as follows: "WE HAVE DONE THE FOLLOWING: [subhead] [uppercase as published]

We have managed to divide Panamanian families.

We have managed to create an economic crisis so the people will suffer.

We have destroyed state and private property.

We have burned street lights and telephone booths.

We have asked for "Yankee" intervention in Panama to mortgage our national sovereignty.

We have paid traitors for trips abroad so they can tell lies about Panama.

We have used convicted drug traffickers to falsely accuse Panamanian officials.

We have striven to turn you into a child who is aged, sad, filled with hatred, and without a future."

On the right-hand side of these statements appears a spoof drawing of the symbol used for the civic clubs' campaign. The CRITICA version consists of a hairy, horned creature with bloodshot eyes, claws, and a devil's tail, oozing blood from its two fangs, and holding a devil's pitchfork. Underneath the statements and the creature, it reads: "CIVIC CLUBS" with the logos of Panama's civic clubs as they appear in the civic clubs' advertisements: the Junior Chamber, the Kiwanis Clubs, the Rotary Clubs, the Panama City Lions Clubs, and the 20-30 Active Club. Flanking the club's symbols are two names not found in the ads of the civic clubs: "The Panamanian Chamber of Commerce" and "APEDE" [Panamanian Association of Business Executives].

Across the base of the entire advertisement, in white letters within an all-red background, it reads: "AWAKENING NATIONAL VIOLENCE!!"[uppercase as published]

Argentina

Caputo on Calling UN Meeting on UK Maneuvers

PY241213 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1159 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Feb (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said this morning that the Argentine Government has not yet called for a meeting of the UN Security Council to consider the situation created by the British Government decision to conduct military exercises in the Malvinas Islands. Caputo added that the United Nations has been told about the possibility of using that mechanism.

Caputo said the call would be made because the council will answer what Argentina considers to be a real provocation.

Caputo made these comments at the Aeroparque Metropolitan Airport a few minutes before leaving for Cartagena, Colombia, to attend a meeting of the Group of Eight. The airplane carrying Caputo left at 0809.

Deputies to Summon Ministers on Maneuvers

PY250021 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2150 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Feb (TELAM)—Today Radical and Justicialist deputies reached an agreement in principle to hold a secret meeting with Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and Defense Minister Jose Jaunarena regarding the military maneuvers Great Britain will carry out soon in the Malvinas Islands zone.

Miguel Toma (Buenos Aires Justicialist Party representative), vice president of the Chamber of Deputies Defense Committee, disclosed in Congress that the ministers would only meet with the members of the foreign and defense committees and that the meeting would take place in early March.

Congressional spokesmen this afternoon confirmed that Radical Deputy Federico Storani, head of the Foreign Relations Committee, has promised to ask Caputo and Jaunarena for the meeting, which would allow them to learn about the diplomatic and military aspects of the situation in the Malvinas Islands as a consequence of the United Kingdom's announcement that it will carry out naval, air, and land operations in the area.

Justicialists Condemns Falklands Maneuvers

PY241255 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2257 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (TELAM)—Through its foreign relations secretariat, the Justicialist Party [PJ] headed by Jose Octavio Bordon, has condemned the announced British military maneuvers on the Malvinas Islands.

The PJ statement says that the British decision shows the seriousness of the situation in the region. It adds that these events must be denounced because they represent a threat to our security and show their obvious offensive nature.

It recalls that Great Britain has ignored UN resolutions, to the point of distorting what the international community had voted for, as in the case of the resolution for peace in the South Atlantic.

It adds that while efforts are being made today to ease tension in the world, this British action must be condemned, not only because it refuses to hold talks to find a peaceful solution to the conflict through diplomatic channels, but it also represents an additional provocation, because the announced maneuvers coincide with the anniversary of the beginning of the military conflict.

It concludes by saying that the current situation in the southwestern Atlantic compels us to prevent a possible escalation of the conflict that will undermine the efforts being made by Latin American countries to achieve peace in the area.

PJ, Other Parties Seek Debt Moratorium

PY242052 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1551 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Feb (TELAM)—The Justicialist Party [PJ], the Intransigent Party [PI], the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], and the Popular Socialist Party [PSP] today requested that a moratorium be declared on the servicing of the Argentine foreign debt with the appropriate congressional approval. They also requested that action be taken to overcome the causes that for decades have made the Armed Forces clash with the people.

In a news conference at a downtown Buenos Aires hotel, leaders of the above parties proposed the establishment of a political agreement to strengthen the autonomy of the provinces before implementing a constitutional reform.

The news conference was held by PJ President Antonio Cafiero, PI President Oscar Alende, PDC President Carlos Auyero, and by PSP President Guillermo Estevez Boero.

Briefs

New Oil, Gas Reserves

Energy Secretary Jorge Lapena yesterday confirmed the discovery of oil and gas deposits on Tierra del Fuego Isla Grande, in the South Atlantic. A Government Oil Deposits official reported: "The deposits may go as far as the Malvinas Islands, although this has not been proven." The natural gas reserves may amount to 160 billion cubic meters. Oil reserves could reach 7.3 million cubic meters and produce 4,500 cubic meters of oil a day. [Summary] *[Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 23 Feb 88 p 1 PY]*

Bolivia

Cochabamba Oil Union To Hold Indefinite Strike

PY241316 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Report from Cochabamba by Oscar Ordonez]

[Text] During a meeting that lasted from 1400 to 1630 yesterday, the Cochabamba oil workers decided to hold a general indefinite strike starting today. Victor Hugo Irigoyen, secretary general of the oil workers union, told Panamericana that this measure had already been proposed on 19 February, and it is now being implemented because the government has not complied with an agreement it signed on 5 February—to pay the workers a production bonus.

The Cochabamba oil workers have just ended a 48-hour sitdown strike which has hindered the regular sale of fuel. Traffic in this city has been reduced considerably and the problem will become worse today.

Because of this situation the YPFB executives met with the oil worker leaders until late last night. After long discussions it was decided that they would request the mediation of the Cochabamba local government to try to find a solution.

The oil workers have tentatively accepted a 50-percent (?advance payment) to lift the strike, but they are first waiting for confirmation from the government.

Brazil

Government Cancels UK Deputy Minister's Visit

PY250033 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] In view of the British military maneuvers to be conducted in the Malvinas Islands next month, the Brazilian Government today asked the British Government to postpone the visit British Deputy Foreign Minister Timothy Eggar was going to make to Brazil.

The Brazilian Government believes the British deputy foreign minister's visit at the time of the maneuvers might create tension in the region.

[Begin reporter recording from the United Kingdom] The British Government this afternoon reacted by summoning Brazilian Ambassador Celso Souza e Silva to the British Foreign Ministry. The ambassador received a note expressing the British Government's surprise and concern over the cancellation of the deputy minister's visit, which the United Kingdom considers an inappropriate and unjustifiable gesture.

The British Government explained that the military maneuvers scheduled for next month on the Malvinas Islands are routine military exercises that are not aimed at increasing tension in the area.

Deputy Minister Eggar told Ambassador Souza e Silva that he would have liked to travel to Brazil to explain the British position directly to Brazilian officials. [end recording]

Nobrega Warns Monetary Council on Deficit

PY250140 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega today warned the members of the National Monetary Council that the government must adopt immediate measures to prevent the public deficit from reaching 6 percent of the GDP.

During the meeting, Minister Nobrega also commented on the development of the negotiations regarding the foreign debt.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives

LD250951 Tehran IRNA in English 0736 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA—Foreign Ministry Deputy for International and Economic Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani arrived in Brazilian capital Brasilia Wednesday and was welcomed by the country's officials.

Larijani is to hold talks with high-ranking Brazilian officials on mutual relations and international issues.

Colombia

Liberal Party, Patriotic Union Members Killed

PA250238 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Seven councilmen have been murdered in Antioquia so far this year. Alderman Rafael Arcangel Ballestero, a left-wing Liberal, was killed in Chigorodo this morning. In addition, a Medellin official died in the hospital this morning after being shot twice in the head by unidentified men who were trying to kidnap him.

The attack on Dr (Carlos Goniman Lopez), a Medellin official and UP [Patriotic Union] member, took place at 0800 in the Belen neighborhood as Dr (Goniman) was on his way to work. The killers pulled him from his car and shot him. His driver was also wounded.

Fatally wounded, Dr (Goniman) was taken to El Rosario Clinic, where he died 2 hours later. The driver is recovering and has been making statements to the authorities.

Paraguay

Remarks by U.S. Ambassador Criticized

Presidential Secretary

PY241423 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
24 Feb 88 p 8

[Text] Mario Abdo Benitez, political secretary of the Colorado Party Executive Board and President Stroessner's private secretary, has said that Paraguay "has always firmly defended its legitimate sovereign interests," adding that U.S. Ambassador Clyde Taylor, who says he is an expert on drug trafficking, "is not an expert in maintaining good relations among nations."

Thus the high ranking Colorado leader rejected what he considered "interference" by the diplomat, who made statements to foreign journalists published yesterday by ULTIMA HORA newspaper.

Regarding Taylor's statement that the human rights issue is a point of friction between the governments of Paraguay and the United States, Abdo Benitez said, "human rights are relentlessly defended by our country." He added that as part of those human rights "the struggle against drug trafficking is also included. We are one of the countries which does most to combat this scourge in Latin America. The United States knows very well that drugs reach its country from all parts of the world."

"Therefore, the United States must first stop drugs entering its country and not seek guilty parties in distant places of the continent," Abdo Benitez said.

He added that Taylor believes he is an expert on drug trafficking, "which means that in the field of diplomacy and as an ambassador he has not done much to improve relations between our nations."

He also said, "ever since he assumed his post," the U.S. ambassador "has been against the will of the Paraguayan people."

Regarding Taylor's statement that "nothing was to be expected" from the recent Paraguayan elections, Abdo Benitez said if the government and the opposition were responsible for the results of the elections, "so were the Paraguayan people, who voted in support of the Colorado Party candidates and the party's only leader, General Stroessner."

In reference to the questioning of our democratic system, Mario Abdo Benitez said, "given the peace and freedom that prevails in all our national territory, it is not hard to believe in the existence of a state of law."

Colorado Party Official

PY241416 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
24 Feb 88 p 8

[Text] Referring to Ambassador Clyde Taylor's remarks published yesterday by the newspaper ULTIMA HORA, Deputy Martin Chiola, political secretary of the Colorado Party Executive Board, has stated that "a democratic event can never be considered a lost opportunity."

The ambassador considers this to be the case, adding that "the two parties are to be blamed for this: the government for not creating the appropriate conditions for the participation of all, and the opposition for not testing the government willingness to create such conditions."

Dr Chiola added: "Mr Taylor is seen to be ridiculous, stating that the election was a lost opportunity, because a democratic event can never be considered a lost opportunity, in that it is always part of the process of enhancing democracy."

One of the points mentioned by Taylor as "critical" in the context of relations between the two countries refers to drug trafficking.

In this regard Chiola stated: "From the very moment the U.S. society showed the world the existence of drug consumption, the Paraguayan Government has fought drug trafficking and all its effects. Mr Taylor must remember that we returned Riccord to them and that many people involved in drug trafficking are now in Paraguayan prisons."

Chiola added: "Mr Taylor must also remember that the president of the Colorado Party Executive Board, who is also our interior minister, on outlining the proposals of the government party's new administration on 14 February termed the struggle against drug trafficking as a national enterprise. Then, Mr Taylor cannot pretend, in his hallucinated imagination, to defame anyone as involved in drug trafficking in our country."

Paraphrasing the U.S. ambassador, who had stated that "the ball is in the government court," Chiola stated: "If Mr Taylor came to Paraguay with interests and intentions that have not been fulfilled, and he is now trying to justify them by making remarks against the interests and sovereignty of the Paraguayan people, we say: The ball is back in your court, but change your coach!..."

Colorado Party Movement Leader

PY241442 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
24 Feb 88 p 8

[Text] Referring to comments made by U.S. Ambasador Clyde Taylor to foreign journalists, comments that were published by the newspaper ULTIMA HORA, Dr Leandro Prieto Yegros, a Colorado deputy and the leader of the National and Popular Movement [of the Colorado

Party], has said the United States is trying to make Paraguay "the scapegoat of its society, which unfortunately is overwhelmed by consumerism and by materialism."

Prieto Yegros said: "They should not come here to blame us for their problems because here we are fighting the drug trafficking problem. In addition, we should be given the names of those involved.

"Following the spokesmen of our government, our president's attitude, and a speech made by our party's president, we are aware that all of us, Colorados and Paraguayans alike, must combat drug trafficking."

Concerning Taylor's contentions about the respect for human rights in Paraguay, Prieto Yegros said: "It (the United States) is also looking for scapegoats."

In conclusion, Prieto Yegros said the people admire many things in the United States, "but we must be treated as equals, with the respect we deserve as a sovereign nation. We are not the product of manufacturers of jeans or chewing gum."

PATRIA Comment

PY242353 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 24 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Given the tone of American Ambassador Clyde Taylor's statements to journalists, it now seems that Paraguay and the United States are not on the same team under the "free world" or "Christian and Western civilization" label, but are on different teams fighting for the same ball, which is now on our field. This is a strange way of understanding diplomacy. Still using soccer terms, we could describe this as a "friendly, but not too friendly," match. However, seriously considering the ambassador's statements, it is hard to understand why he said that the 14 February elections were "a lost opportunity." If we are not mistaken, it was not "a lost opportunity" but rather "a victorious election" for the Colorado Party and a deserved triumph, unless 89 percent of the population was wrong. Of course, in the ambassador's view, the "lost opportunity" was experienced by the opposition or whatever the sector that advocated blank votes or abstention is called. If this were the case, we totally agree with him, since the "lost opportunity" was that of remaining silent instead of playing a shameful role upon the announcement of the final vote tally. Changing the subject, if the American ambassador admitted having "intervened" (quoting a DPA report), in violation of the principles of relations among sovereign countries, we must take it calmly, especially since he "requested instructions from Washington" before intervening. However, he did not specify that when Washington sends instructions to Paraguay, they are based on information sent (by whom?) from Ascuncion to Washington. What he had first called "intervention" he later called a "complaint"—and on an offside [preceding word in English], to use soccer terminology—when he said "the Paraguayan Government could have chosen not to give importance to those complaints..." It seems that by making irrelevant complaints, he intended to anticipate the Paraguayan Government's reaction, or worse yet, to dictate what it should emphasize, and when.

As for the reference to drug trafficking, it is better to believe that the correspondent mistranscribed the ambassador's words about "the seizure of 300 kg of cocaine leaving Paraguay." This is a horrible foul against the truth, because it is one thing to "leave Paraguay" and another thing to be "processed in Paraguay." This is an infringement of the rules of the soccer game, because by vaguely saying "leaving Paraguay," the good name of Paraguay is gratuitously besmirched before world public opinion. There were seizures of cocaine, but the cocaine did not "leave" Paraguay. It went "through Paraguay." And it left through routes that cannot be closed by Brazil or Argentina, much less Colombia, despite their greater resources and despite American assistance, which is more than what is given to Paraguay. Still on the same subject, regarding the ambassador's "estimate" about the existence of 3,000 hectares of marijuana plantations, which accords Paraguay the dubious honor of being "the Latin American country with the largest cultivation," the point is not just to "estimate," but to denounce and help eradicate these plantations, considering that an agreement of cooperation in this field exists between Paraguay and the United States.

Moreover, the words of the president of the Colorado Party Executive Board on 14 February deserved mention in the ambassador's statement. On that date, in announcing the electoral victory of the Colorado Party and the commitments it assumed, the Executive Board president recognized the international character of drug trafficking and pledged our resolve to fight it with all our means—and those provided by the nations most affected by drug consumption.

Peru

Garcia Criticizes U.S. Latin American Policy

PA250405 Panama City Panavision Television in Spanish 2245 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Interview with President Alan Garcia by unidentified Panamanian reporter during a meeting of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties, COPPPAL, in Lima; date not given; on the "Witnesses of History" program—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] The United States is implementing a destabilization policy against some Central American countries—especially Panama because of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. As a citizen of America—as you characterized yourself in Acapulco—what do you have to say in this regard?

[Garcia] I respect the U.S. people very much. However, I believe that sometimes their government has an imperialist and hegemonic attitude toward Latin America. There are some U.S. rulers who believe Latin America, especially Central America—the countries closer to them—belong to them. They believe security means dominating and imposing conditions on those countries. I believe they are very much mistaken. It is arrogance toward our small Central American countries that makes the people react with violence and turn anti-American, which makes the United States insecure.

I believe this arrogance is one grave error of U.S. foreign policy in Latin America. We can see this in the case of the contras. What is the United States doing financing for humanitarian reasons—or so it claims—the contras, who are rocking the Nicaraguan economy and society? The United States should leave other people alone. Now they are speaking of the possibility of not complying with the timetable established in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. Why?

We believe the most important obligation the United States has toward Latin America is to respect our sovereignty and our autonomy and to realize that we are countries. If we are poor, if we do not have bombs, rockets, cars, factories, money—that is something else. We respect them. Let them respect us. Let there be compliance with what General Torrijos achieved following a patient and bloody struggle by the Panamanian people.

[Reporter] I do not want to take too much of your time, Mr President, but what is the root of your anti-imperialism?

[Garcia] The belief that Latin America is composed of a single people who share a destiny. I believe Latin America must rescue its sovereignty by becoming united and by preventing its wealth from going to the powerful countries to make them wealthier. In 1987 we saw interest go up and down and the debt spiral, and how we are expected to sacrifice our people for the sake of paying the debt. Anti-imperialism means liberating our people from the crushing weight of the world's economy and deciding on an economic development model that would create democracy and equality in our societies.

[Reporter] Mr President, when will you visit us in Panama?

[Garcia] I have been waiting for that opportunity. Once I had intentions of going, but my plans were frustrated due to events in my country, and I have not been able to go to that land where many a Peruvian in exile has been treated well and has been loved very much. I hope with joy and enthusiasm to be with the Panamanian people some day.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr President.

[Garcia] Thank you.

Uruguay

New Foreign Minister To Take Office 9 March

PY250044 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] New Foreign Minister-designate Luis Barrios Tassano will be sworn in on 9 March.

On 7 March, current Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias will begin a busy agenda that includes a farewell to the media, a gathering with public officials in Congress, a meeting with members of the International Relations Department, and a reception for the diplomatic corps.

Our source added that Luis Barrios Tassano will be part of the presidential entourage traveling to the Soviet Union, and that Senator Jorge Batlle will join them.

UK Cancels Visit by Deputy Foreign Minister

PY251221 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0830 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Through its ambassador in Montevideo, Great Britain has officially informed Uruguayan acting Foreign Minister Adolfo Castells that British Deputy Foreign Minister Timothy Eggar, who was scheduled to visit Uruguay in March, will not come to our country. Eggar was due to have visited Brazil and Uruguay by mid-March in the wake of the problems caused by the military maneuvers that the British are planning to hold on the Malvinas Islands between 7 and 31 March.

Guyana

Hoyte To Chair New Antidrug Task Force

FL241814 Bridgetown CANA in English 1719 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 24, CANA—President Desmond Hoyte will himself chair an inter-agency task force being set up here to oversee the country's fight against narcotics traffickers.

President Hoyte, announcing plans for the formation of the task force at a Republic Day rally on Monday, described trafficking in illegal drugs as one of the most disturbing phenomena to have emerged in Guyana in recent years.

He promised harsh treatment for those involved in this illegal activity.

President Hoyte said that stiff penalties in new narcotics legislation passed here last Friday demonstrated the administration's determination to combat the drug problem with all the force at its command. The new task force will be made up of representatives of the police, military, customs and regional administrations.

Hoyte will be the chairman, at least for an initial period.

New narcotics laws include the death penalty for those convicted of supplying narcotics which result in a child's death.

In addition, the state is now empowered to seize property which is deemed to have been acquired from money earned in trafficking drugs.

Complaints Against Police To Be Investigated

FL281825 Bridgetown CANA in English 1652 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 24, CANA—The Guyana Government will establish a police authority to investigate promptly and thoroughly complaints against the police, President Desmond Hoyte has announced here.

Hoyte told a Republic Day rally Monday night that the authority will bolster public confidence in the police force, which has been the target to criticisms from several quarters, including opposition political parties and the human rights association.

However, he promised that creation of the authority will not hinder the police in their work, but will demonstrate the administration's determination to protect the interests of the society.

Hoyte said that appropriate legislation establishing the authority will be introduced in the National Assembly this year.

Suriname

Health Minister on Use of Netherlands Aid

FL241930 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] The Government of Suriname has set up a fund. The money for the fund will come from the 12-million-guilders Dutch humanitarian aid, which will be converted into Surinamese guilders. The Dutch Government has recently promised this aid to Suriname. The authorities want to invest this money in, among other areas, the public health sector. According to Public Health Care Minister Henk Alimahomed, in this way the aid will be more profitable to Suriname. He added that one half of the Dutch humanitarian aid will be used for the purchase of medicines because of the serious shortage of drugs which currently exists. The minister expects that in a month and a half the most urgent needs will be solved if the administrative procedures are shortened.

Displaced Complain of Obstacle To Return

FL241945 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] The displaced persons from eastern-south Suriname on Monday night had a meeting with the commission that looks after their interests. The people are dissatisfied because obstacles that prevent their return to their homes in the interior have not yet been removed. The displaced persons claim that their villages are still unsafe and demanded compensation for the losses they suffered during the fights against the Brunswijk gang. Repatriation to their villages will only be possible after cleaning-up operations are done and the areas are safe from explosives and other devices, said the villagers. The commission couldn't give satisfactory answers to the questions asked during the meeting. The group was also somewhat dissatisfied because no member of the National Assembly was present to listen to their problems.